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Cassis Introduces Parental Involvement Bill *Local Principal Endorses Legislation*

LANSING—State Senator Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, Vice-chair of the Senate Education Committee, last week introduced Senate Bill 307, legislation to require all school districts and public school academies to develop a policy where parents or guardians have direct involvement in their children's education.

"This is a very important piece of legislation," Cassis said. "As a former educator and school psychologist, I have seen first-hand the way students excel when their parents play an active role in their education."

The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) places parent involvement as their first priority on their 2002-2003 legislative directive list.

Senate Bill 307 is generating interest among the education community and in the 15th district. Peg Sell, Principal Oxbow Elementary School in Huron Valley Schools has devoted her 32-year education career to promoting parental involvement.

"It is of tremendous importance that Sen. Cassis would introduce this measure," said Sell. "Without parents as partners in education, students do not reach their potential. Life is all about learning, and research has shown that kids with actively involved parents are better students."

This measure is a continuation of Sen. Cassis' commitment to providing Michigan's children a quality education. Her efforts in the House of Representatives supporting the Michigan Merit

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Awards for those who work hard to pass the MEAP tests, supporting the Michigan Education Savings Program, which she shepherded through the House, and ensuring reading grant funding and a pupil count reflecting growing school districts through the K-12 budget highlight that commitment.

“This proposal is a phenomenal first step in acknowledging that parents’ involvement in their children’s education is crucial to their future,” added Sell.

Senate Bill 307 has been referred to the Senate Education committee which Senator Cassis Vice-chairs.

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